

Governor Christie Stands Up For Addiction And Recovery

TAKING A STAND FOR RECOVERY: Continuing his commitment to ending the stigma that often impedes drug addiction and treatment, Governor Chris Christie and the recovery community last night held a candlelight vigil on the steps of the New Jersey Statehouse. Throughout his administration, Governor Christie has made it a top priority to make New Jersey a national leader in addiction recovery. Several hundred people attended last night to honor the memories of those lost and support people who are struggling to find hope, especially during the holiday season.

[WATCH: Gov Christie: The Candles Tonight Are Shining Bright So That People Can Walk Towards The Light Of Hope](#)



Here's a look at some coverage of the Vigil:

[AP: Christie Calls For End Of 'Shame' Tied To Drug Addiction](#)

[Star-Ledger: Christie gets hero's welcome at candlelight vigil for drug addiction](#)

[Burlington County Times: Christie leads candlelight vigil for drug addiction victims](#)

[NJ Spotlight: Christie Calls For Action On Addiction Recovery At Candlelight Vigil](#)

ICYMI, here is the video of the Governor's full remarks, and attached is his record of leading initiatives:

[WATCH: Governor Christie: People Need To Know That There Is A Better Tomorrow Available To Them](#)



Full photo gallery available [here](#).

And here's a look at some of today's front pages:

Today's web bonus » See more photos of local events. media.Trentonian.com

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NO PAPER TRAIL



Mayor's nonprofit operating in the dark » PAGE 3



People attend a candlelight vigil in front of the state house to combat drug addiction on Wednesday evening.

REMEMBERING

Governor hosts vigil to honor those lost to drug addiction » PAGE 4



CRIME » PAGE 8
Alleged serial rapist charged with 4 Trenton assaults



DRUGS » PAGE 6
DEA chemists race to identify synthetic opioids



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Drumming along



MARCY ROBB / PHOTOJOURNALIST

Gloria Wiggins, of Edgewater Park, sings along to "The Little Drummer Boy" on Wednesday at the Bridges Adult Medical Day Center in Willingboro.



Christie leads vigil for drug addiction victims

"We need to let families know we want them to reach out and ask for help," the governor said.

By DAVID LEWISKY
STAFF WRITER

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie's approval ratings may have dipped into historically low territory, but his voice on the issue of drug addiction remains as strong as ever.

Tackling addiction remains a top priority for the two-term governor, and he vowed Wednesday to continue to devote his time to help end the stigma surrounding addiction, as well as find solutions and resources to assist those suffering from it.

"I know and believe that addiction is not a moral failing, but a disease. And it is a disease that can be treated,"

Christie said during a candlelight vigil in front of the Statehouse.

Over 100 people, including many Statehouse employees and residents of the capital, attended the event, which Christie's office said was organized as a show of support for people, families and friends of those impacted by addiction and to honor the memories of those who died from it.

The event occurred shortly after Christie began running radio ads to encourage people who need help to call the state's addiction hotline at 211.

On the Statehouse steps
See CHRISTIE, Page A2

Doane's Christmas tradition continues

For the 169th year, the school hosted the Christmas Mystery performance for its students and community members.

By KELLY KRUTTS
STAFF WRITER

BURLINGTON CITY — Madelyn Miller always knew she wanted to play the part of Mary in the annual "Christmas Mystery" at Doane Academy.

In fact, Madelyn, 18, was in the performance once before when she was much, much younger: She played baby Jesus.

For the senior, being Mary brought her full circle in her career at the private school on Riverbank.

"It meant so much to me, and I actually cried a

few times during the performance," she said.

"The Christmas Mystery" is one of the oldest traditions at Doane, starting back in 1848. At the time, Doane was called St. Mary's Hall and was an all-girls boarding school. Many of the students couldn't go home for the holidays then, so they decided to create their own celebration.

According to the history, told Wednesday by senior class president Eliana Harrison, the girls put together a chorus of hymns and acted

See TRADITION, Page A2

Willingboro awards cleaning contract despite misgivings

Deputy Mayor Chris Walker said there have been complaints about the company with the winning bid.

By TODD MICHAEL
STAFF WRITER

WILLINGBORO — The municipality has reluctantly signed off on a six-figure deal with a Mercer County company to clean township-owned facilities, despite concerns raised earlier this year.

In a 4-1 vote Tuesday, the Township Council approved a resolution to award a \$399,300 annual contract for custodial services at the municipal complex, Public

Works building and Kennedy Center to All Clean Building Services of Lawrenceville, effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2017.

Deputy Mayor Chris Walker, who cast the lone no vote, said he was disappointed to see the winning bidder was the current contractor, given past experiences that led the council to table the approval in June. "The concerns then,

as they are now, are there have been many complaints about this cleaning company," Walker said. "There's been a lot of complaints about this company. I've been there and seen garbage piled up and people always complaining about this company."

Despite concerns about All Clean's work, the municipality could not reject the bid, which was the lowest of four submitted.

"I would think it would be responsible to bypass them based on the complaints we've had and the poor

performance," Walker said. "Unfortunately, there was not a good documentation process in place over the course of the year to document the deficiencies in the execution of this contract," interim



Township Manager Richard Brevetti said. "For us to reject the contract, we have to have (documentation), conversations with the vendor that are producible if we bypass the lowest responsible bidder."

Without documentation and an opportunity for the company to correct any issues, local government contract law prohibits the rejection of a qualified contractor.

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B

44° Partly sunny,
27° breezy, B3

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